

IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 175, lines 1-8, please delete the "Abstract of the Invention", and insert therein a new Abstract of the Invention as follows:

--ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Some embodiments provide a method of routing nets within a region of an integrated-circuit ("IC") layout. The method uses a first set of lines to partition the IC region into a plurality of sub-regions. In addition, the method uses a second set of lines to measure congestion of routes for the nets within the IC region. According to this method, at least some of the lines in the second set are different from the lines in the first set.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have changed the title of this application, inserted a reference to